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out scientific investigations. This committee consists of Mr. J. Burt-Davy (botany and agriculture); Mr. L. Colquhoun (chemistry); Professor Young (geology); Professor Orr (mechanical engineering); Mr. Bernard Price (electrical engineering); Professor Beattie (physics); Dr. Caldecott (metallurgy); Professor van der Riet (chemistry); Professor Malherbe (chemistry); Dr. L. Peringuey (president of the Royal Society of South Africa). The first step taken by the new committee has been to arrange for the preparation of fifty-two reports by leading experts, dealing with the available raw materials of South Africa suitable for manufacture or export. It is intended that these reports shall be published for the guidance of intending manufacturers and other business men.

ARRANGEMENTS have recently been completed for the establishment of a new department of technical optics in connection with the Imperial College of Science and Technology at South Kensington. According to a statement in the *London Times*, the new department is under the management of a Technical Optics Committee, of which Mr. Arthur H. D. Acland is chairman, and which at present consists of 13 members representing the Admiralty, the Army Council, the Ministry of Munitions, the Royal Society, the National Physical Laboratory, employers in the optical trades, glass manufacturers and the Imperial College; while two further members have yet to be elected representative of glass workers and metal workers. Mr. Frederic J. Cheshire has been appointed head of the new department at the Imperial College for a period of five years, with the title of director of technical optics and professor of technical optics at the Imperial College. Mr. Cheshire has been associated with optical instruments for many years at the Patent Office, and, since the formation of the Ministry of Munitions, has been deputy director-general of the ministry and technical director of the optical department. He is president of the Optical Society. It is anticipated that the organization of departments will be rapidly completed, and that training will begin at an early date.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

PLANS for medical work at the University of Chicago, for which a fund of \$5,500,000 has been raised, contemplate two medical schools and provision for research. One medical school on essentially the same basis as that of the Johns Hopkins University is to provide training for candidates for the degree of M.D. The other school, in connection with the Presbyterian Hospital, is intended for the benefit of those in actual practise. It may be estimated that the entire amount of money involved, including all the corporations which unite for this work, will reach approximately \$15,000,000.

MR. LEVI BARBOUR, of Detroit, has given \$150,000 to the University of Michigan, one hundred thousand dollars of which is to be used for a residence hall for women and fifty thousand for scholarships for women from oriental countries.

As the result of recent gifts, Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis., is erecting a dormitory for women to cost \$125,000 and a chapel to cost \$120,000.

DR. JESSE MORE GREENMAN, associate professor in the Henry Shaw School of Botany of Washington University and curator of the herbarium of the Missouri Botanical Garden has been promoted to a professorship of botany in Washington University.

At the recent commencement of Syracuse University, Dr. Louis M. Hickernell was promoted from an instructorship to be assistant professor of zoology. Mr. Harry S. Pizer, B.Sc., won a teaching fellowship in zoology for the coming year.

DR. A. E. SHIPLEY, master of Christ's College, Cambridge, and reader in zoology in the university, has been elected vice-chancellor for the next academical year.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

AN INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND CIVILIZATION

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Dr. Sarton's plan for an *Institute for the History of Sci-*